(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposal was accepted and included in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any bank assistance or Asian Development Bank assistance has been sanctioned for the project; and

(d) whether Government have prepared any plan to complete the project; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RES-SOURCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUR FACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANU BHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) There is neither a proposal for four-laning the en tire stretch of National Highway No. 8 from Ahmedabad to Bombay (Length 502 km), nor was this provided for in the VII Five Year Plan. However, approximately 28 kms out of the total length are already 4-lane, widening to 4-lanes is in progress in about 86 kms more and Annual Plan 1990-91 contains provision for taking up four-laning in another 100 kms.

(c) No, Sir. Upto now no assistance for 4-laning of any portion of the existing National Highway between Ahmedabad and Bombay has been approved either by the Asian Development Bank or any other Bank.

(d) No, Sir.

New national highways in Gujarat

721. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:

SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABH-SHANKER BHATT:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRAN-SPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government "of Gujarat have requested the Government of India to declare five new national highways in Gujarat; and

(b) what is the reaction of the Govern ment of India thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RE-SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL ' CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUR, FACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) In June, 1990, the Chief Minister, Gujarat had pro-posed for declaration of 6 State roads as National Highways. Further additions in the National Highways System would depend on the funds to be earmarked for it in the 8th Five Year Plan.

Re-introduction of ship service between Rameshwaram and Talaimannar

722. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the passenger ship from Rameshwaram to Talaimannar has been stopped;

(b) if so, whether there is any propsal to re-introduce this important service to enable foreign tourists specially from France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and Singapore to come to India.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RE-SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) The ferry service between Rameshwaram and Talaimanner remains suspended due to security and logistical reasons. Given the prevailing situation in Sri Lanka, it is difficult to say when the ferry service can be resumed.

Ship-Building yards at Tuticorin port

723. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of SURFAC TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to have two ship-building yards at Tuticorin Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost involved therein; and

(c) by when this yard construction project is likely to be completed?